United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois, Indiana
Michigan, Minnesota
Ohio, Wisconsin

Industrial Excess Landfill Site Update

Uniontown, Ohio **November 2001**

This Fact Sheet Will Tell You About:

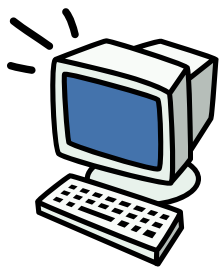
- Completion of demolition activities.
- Ground-water sampling results.
- A summary of upcoming activities.
- How to get more information.

Web Site

This and additional updates can be found on the following Web site:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites

Scroll through the list to find Industrial Excess Landfill site.



Upon completion of demolition activities at the IEL site, wildflowers were planted.

This fact sheet provides an update on the on-going activities at the Industrial Excess Landfill site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing cleanup work at the site. The work is being conducted by the parties considered potentially responsible for the contamination at the site (referred to as PRPs).

The IEL site is a closed landfill located on Cleveland Avenue in Uniontown, Ohio, about 10 miles southeast of Akron. From 1966 to 1980, the landfill accepted wastes of largely undetermined and unknown composition. The site was placed on the U.S. EPA's National Priorities List in October 1984. The NPL is a list of the nation's top priority hazardous waste sites eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program.

Building Demolition Completed

In July 2001, the PRPs completed demolishing the remaining buildings at the site. In total, the following demolition/removal activities were completed:

- Eight underground storage tanks were removed.
- Asbestos from one of the buildings was removed and disposed.
- Two septic tanks were disconnected and filled.
- Two residential wells on the site were properly closed.
- Three buildings were demolished.

Upon completion of demolition activities, the PRPs filled the excavated areas with clean soil, graded the area and planted wild flowers. A fence was also installed at the Cleveland Avenue entrance of the site to prevent overnight parking there. The work was supervised by U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and a consultant hired by Lake Township.

Ground-Water Sampling

The June and September 2001 rounds of ground-water sampling have been completed. U.S. EPA is currently reviewing the results of these rounds of samples and will make the results available to the public after they have reviewed and validated them. As in the past, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and a consultant from Lake Township provided oversight of the sampling.

U.S. EPA has completed its review and validation of the rounds of sampling conducted in March 2001 and found the results to be usable. The results of the March 2001 sampling event were essentially identical to those for the November 2000 and the August 2000 sampling events.

The results of the March 2001 ground-water sampling showed the following:

- None of the off-site well samples had any contaminants associated with the site at levels exceeding federal drinking-water standards. Using drinking-water standards is a conservative measurement because no one in the vicinity of the site is using the ground water for drinking.
- Concentrations of volatile organic compounds found in wells on the site are similar to those found in the August and November of 2000 and September 1998 sampling.
- One well contained a lower concentration of benzene than in the August and November 2000 samples. This well was pumped dry during sample collections.
- The regional east-to-west ground-water flow pattern is not significantly disturbed as the ground water passes beneath the site.

The March 2001 results continue to show the same trends shown in earlier sampling events. The trends are as follows:

- The concentrations of nearly all of the organic contaminants continue to decrease.
- The maximum concentration of each contaminant measured in the March 2001 sampling was less than or equal to the maximum concentration ever detected for that contaminant.
- No metals were detected in, or had moved from, off-site wells at levels greater than drinking-water standards.
- The evaluation of natural attenuation was consistent with earlier results and supports the idea that the contaminants are continuing to break down naturally. This has been evidenced by the continuing decrease in the concentrations of certain contaminants. For example, ethylbenzene concentrations in one well have decreased from 1,300 parts per billion in 1991 to 7.8 ppb in March 2001.

The PRPs have now completed five rounds of ground-water sampling at the site. The PRPs intend to continue to sample ground water at the site on a quarterly basis for approximately three more years.

The summary report for the March 2001 sampling event, as well as the health and safety plan for ground-water monitoring activities, are available for review in the site information repositories.

Installing New Monitoring Wells

Lake Township has requested that additional monitoring wells be installed near two existing wells where high levels of benzene have been found. While U.S. EPA believes that the high levels may be due to physical problems with the two existing wells, the agency agrees that installing two new wells in the area would help detemine if the high levels are truly representative of the levels of benzene in the ground water. In addition, U.S. EPA is proposing that a third new well be installed in the path of the flow of the ground water from the two new wells. This would help determine if the existing wells with high levels of benzene are influencing the results further down in the path of the flow of the ground water.

U.S. EPA has agreed to allow the next round of sampling, originally scheduled for this December, to be postponed until the new wells have been installed, providing that the next round of sampling is completed no later than mid-January 2002.

What's Next?

Phyto-cap/Enhanced Natural Attenuation Proposal

The detailed biodiverse phyto-cap/enhanced natural attenuation remedy proposal submitted by the PRPs in November 2000 remains under consideration by U.S. EPA.

This approach calls for selectively planting trees and other vegetation at certain areas in the landfill to promote natural attenuation and, to a lesser degree, enhance the effectiveness of the existing soil cover. Instead of preventing water from infiltrating the landfill, this remedy assumes that infiltration is desirable because it promotes natural attenuation.

U.S. EPA will analyze the biodiverse phyto-cap/enhanced natural attenuation proposal in the focused feasibility study.

Details of a court decision regarding allegations made by Charles Kittinger, IEL's former owner/operator, are being released in a fact sheet from the Department of Justice.

A copy of that fact sheet has been included with this update.

Focused Feasibility Study

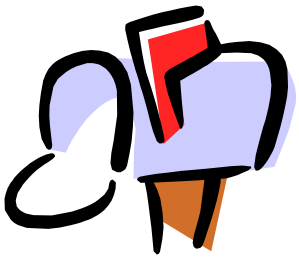
The focused feasibility study will evaluate cleanup alternatives for containment of the wastes in the landfill. The focused feasibility study is expected to be completed in the winter of 2001-2002. Upon completion of the focused feasibility study, U.S. EPA may propose another amendment to the record of decision signed in 1989 (amended in March 2000). If another amendment is proposed, U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting and public comment period on the proposed amendment.

National Ombudsman's Report

U.S. EPA continues to await the final report from the National Ombudsman outlining its review and recommendations for the IEL site. Upon its submission to U.S. EPA, this report will also be placed in the information repositories and on the U.S. EPA Web site: www.epa.gov/region5/sites. Scroll through the list to find the Industrial Excess Landfill site.

Mailing List

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on our mailing list. If you would like to receive fact sheets, progress reports, and community meeting information for the Industrial Excess Landfill site, please complete this form and mail to:



Dave Novak
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Affiliation _____
E-mail _____

Additions and/or changes can also be sent to Dave Novak at his e-mail address: novak.dave@epa.gov.

Contact Information

Dave Novak
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (312) 886-7478 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 67478
Fax: (312) 353-1155
E-mail: novak.dave@epa.gov

Ross del Rosario
Remedial Project Manager
Office of Superfund (SR-6J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (312) 886-6195
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 66195
Fax: (312) 886-4071
E-mail: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov

Larry Antonelli
Project Manager
Ohio EPA
2110 E. Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087
Phone: (330) 963-1127
Fax: (330) 487-0769
E-mail: larry.antonelli@epa.state.oh.us

Information Repositories

You may review detailed information about the Industrial Excess Landfill site at the information repositories. The repositories are located at:

Hartville Branch Library
411 E. Maple St.
Hartville, OH

Lake Township Clerk's Office
12360 Market North
Hartville, OH